

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 215729
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 SIL-01 ISO-00 EB-08 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07
/044 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/RA:SMHOLLY:EO
APPROVED BY NEA:NVELIOTES
NEA/EGY:DZWEIFEL (DRAFT)
/IL:TBOWIE (DRAFT)
NEA/RA:HPRECHT
U/NEA:MBERG

-----024199 090515Z /12

R 082349Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 215729

STADIS
FOR LRO BROD FROM NEA/RA HOLLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN-US TRADE UNION RELATIONS

REF: CAIRO 14592

1. AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR ERNEST LEE
HAS MADE AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT A LIST OF UNIONS WITH
SUGGESTION THESE UNIONS BE CONTACTED BY LRO TO INVITE
UNION'S REPRESENTATIVE ATTEND AFL-CIO CONVENTION SCHEDULED
TO BE HELD AT LOS ANGELES BEGINNING DECEMBER 8, 1977. IN-
CLUDED IN LIST IS MR. SAAD MOHAMED AHMED, PRESIDENT,
EGYPTIAN FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS, 90 EL GALAA STREET,
CAIRO. THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT BREAK-
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THROUGH AS FAR AS EGYPTIAN-US TRADE UNION RELATIONS ARE
CONCERNED. USG WILL FUND, ALTHOUGH DETAILS CONCERNING
FINANCING OF VISIT (INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANT FROM CU
OR AID/OLAB PROGRAM) STILL BEING WORKED OUT- (FYI:
INVITATIONS AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR INVITEES TO
BIENNIAL CONVENTION ARE INVARIABLY PHOTO FINISHES.) YOU
MAY INFORM MR. AHMED OF FORTHCOMING INVITATION, TELLING

HIM THAT YOU WILL HAVE MORE COMPLETE DETAILS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. PLEASE NOTE INVITATION IS FOR ONE EGYPTIAN ONLY, IF AHMED CANNOT ATTEND, ASK FOR SUBSTITUTE'S NAME AND SECURE FULL BIOGRAPHIC DATA AS WELL AS ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION CONCERNING POLITICAL ORIENTATION, ETC. IF SUBSTITUTE NOMINATED, AHMED SHOULD BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND CLEARLY THAT USG CANNOT GUARANTEE ATTENDANCE SUCH NOMINEE AT CONVENTION AS FUNDS ARE LIMITED AND THERE ARE POTENTIAL NOMINEES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WHO HAVE NOT BEEN INVITED AND ONE OF THEM MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR AHMED. (FYI: INFORMATION ON SUBSTITUTE, IF ONE NOMINATED, WILL BE PASSED TO AFL-CIO FOR APPROVAL. IF APPROVED YOU WILL BE SO NOTIFIED.)

2. CONCERNING POSSIBILITY EGYPTIAN LABOR PARTICIPATION IN USG-FINANCED TRAINING PROGRAMS, LEE SAID HE COULD NOT GIVE GO AHEAD UNTIL AFL-CIO LEADERSHIP HAD OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO AHMED AND REACH DECISION ABOUT FURTHER CONTACTS. REALIZE PRESSURES ON YOU; HOWEVER, ANY FURTHER ATTEMPT ON MY PART PUSH ISSUE WITH AFL-CIO UNTIL DECEMBER WOULD BE COUNTER PRODUCTIVE. WILL DISCUSS THIS MORE FULLY WITH YOU IN ROME DURING NARCOTICS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 21-23. IF YOU WERE ABLE ATTEND LABOR CONFERENCE AT TUNIS, SEPTEMBER 26-30, YOU COULD TALK THINGS OUT WITH

LEE THERE. HOWEVER, AS MATTERS NOW STAND, I PLAN DISCUSS
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MATTERS PERTAINING TO EGYPT WITH LEE BEFORE MY DEPARTURE AND WILL FILL YOU IN.

3. AFL-CIO HAS NOT RECEIVED LETTERS REFERRED TO IN PARA ONE REFTEL. HOWEVER, ON THE SUBJECT OF LETTERS, DURING RECENT CONVERSATION, LEE DID NOTE THAT VERBAL OR WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR FRATERNAL VISITS BY US TRADE UNION DELEGATIONS WERE NOT WELCOME AT THIS TIME. US-EGYPTIAN TRADE UNION RELATIONSHIP IS STILL TOO TENUOUS FOR SUCH VISITS. AT SAME TIME AFL-CIO MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT REACTIONS OF HISTADRUT AND AMERICANS FRIENDLY TO ISRAEL TO DEVELOPMENT OF CLOSER TIES BETWEEN AFL-CIO AND EFL. IF EGYPTIANS NEED TO INVITE ONE AFL-CIO REPRESENTATIVE TO VISIT EGYPT, RATHER THAN FRATERNAL DELEGATION, IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT STAFF PERSON COULD ACCEPT SUCH AN INVITATION. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE215729
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SMHOLLY:EO
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770326-0859
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770984/aaaacsty.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ba172c4a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 77 CAIRO 14592
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1341776
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN-US TRADE UNION RELATIONS
TAGS: ELAB, EG, US
To: CAIRO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ba172c4a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009